Cargo carrying by Petroleum Companies

1585. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the announcement of Government that from April, 2002 the public sector oil companies will be forced to import their own crude and under such a free-market dispension Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and IOC will no longer be bound to Shipping Corporation of India for carrying their cargo; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Currently Indian Oil Corporation is the nodal agency for crude purchase and Shipping Corporation of India is the nodal agency for crude transportation. After dismantling of Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) from 1st April, 2002, individual oil public sector companies such as Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., and Indian Oil Corporation would be free to make their own arrangements for sourcing/tansportation of crude oil.

Utilization of funds for welfare of handicapped children and widows

1586. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds allocated to each State for various welfare schemes for handicapped children and widows in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds allocated to States for the purpose under the schemes during this period have been utilized;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with